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LB 754

of my reasons for prioritizing this bill, as I looked at it, was just maybe if counties would take an opportunity to operate under the suggestions that we have in LB 754 we might even be able to prevent some litigation. Litigation often arises out of a misunderstanding between two parties or abuse of power by a certain party, and as Senator Erdman has explained so well, this is basically about a cooperative process between counties that...and livestock people. Many counties in this state have a good relationship with their livestock people, and they're doing, as Senator Erdman said, exactly what is in this bill, and they're supportive of it. I just think that some counties are stumbling. They want to be livestock friendly, but they aren't sure how to go about it. And this bill would give them an avenue to go about it. A question was raised by one of my colleagues about the term "timely manner". I took a good look at that as I prioritized this. The words "timely manner," we could have substituted "30 days" or whatever. But I think this...the fact that we left "timely manner" in there shows that we do recognize and want to leave local control in place. Let the local county board decide what "timely manner" is, and say, we better get this done or we could be up for litigation. So it encourages a professional, up-front discussion by all the parties to try to come to agreements that won't result in litigation. Senator Baker's example is very common across this state. It may not be a majority of the cases, but it happens enough that cases like that have given Nebraska a bad reputation in the nation, to the point that if you go to other states, you'll hear them say, well, if you want to build a livestock facility, don't go to Nebraska. That's what we're trying to start reversing here with this bill, encouraging different process of cooperation through county boards and livestock facilities. So again, local control is left in place. It's not diminished. The Livestock Waste Management Act that is currently on the books is not diminished. And so...the other problem that comes into play here that...reason we introduced this bill was, in an effort by some counties to avoid "large," whatever that is, confinement facilities, they have found that...and they can do this. But they have found that they have even depressed expansion of small family-size operations that have been there for years and years, where a college graduate may want to come back to the farm; not enough acres to farm, so